

The Kennedy-Kasich-Markey Biological Weapons Restrictions Act of 1996 would add provisions recommended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Justice Department, and the Centers for Disease Control [CDC] to current law on weapons of mass destruction and biological and chemical weapons by making the criminal misuse of such biological organisms a Federal crime.

On the surface, the bipartisan Kennedy-Kasich-Markey legislation is very basic. But it represents some very fundamental and necessary changes to current law to fill some very clear gaps identified by the FBI and Justice Departments.

Specifically, the Kennedy-Kasich-Markey bill and amendment would amend the Federal criminal statute to impose mandatory penalties.

First, against anyone who knowingly develops, produces, stockpiles, transfers, acquires, or attempts to acquire under false pretenses any biological agent, toxin or delivery system for use as weapons, or knowingly assists a foreign or any organization to deliver a weapon of mass destruction intended to kill, injure or otherwise harm any persons living in the United States; and

Second, against anyone who knowingly attempts, conspires, or threatens to use any biological agent, toxin or delivery system for use as a weapon, or knowingly assists a foreign state or any organization to do so.

The legislation would also add the term "recombinant DNA material" to the definitions of what constitutes a potential biological weapon if used improperly or as a weapon of mass destruction.

Finally, the legislation would expand the current definition of what constitutes a criminal offense to include those who threaten to use a biological weapon to kill or injure another.

This gap in current law was evident last year, on Good Friday, when, in the weeks following the terrorist incidents in Japan involving the toxin Sarin, an anonymous threat was lodged against Disneyland and its thousands of visitors. The threat demanded a ransom note be paid, or the toxic substance would be released in the Disneyland amusement park. Fortunately, that incident did not result in the threat being carried out, but clearly there is a need to address cases where such threats or other acts of extortion would occur.

In summary, there are two important issues facing this Congress when considering biological or chemical weapons legislation.

The first is how best we can limit access to biological organisms that can be used by a domestic terrorist to make a weapon of mass destruction without inhibiting the very legitimate research of the scientific community in this area. The other issue is how best and how swiftly we will address some very glaring gaps in the current weapons of mass destruction Federal law.

The legislation I have developed, the Kennedy-Kasich-Markey legislation, addresses issues involving the Federal criminal code, title 18 of the United States Code.

The FBI and the CIA have both testified before Congress that terrorism in the form of biological and chemical weapons is the greatest law enforcement challenge of the next decade.

These bills respond to several recent incidents in Ohio, Minnesota, and Mississippi where fringe groups were able to acquire dangerous viruses, pathogens, and toxins but, fortunately, were stopped before a domestic terrorism incident occurred.

In closing, I'd also restate my support for the approach developed by Representative MARKEY, myself, and others.

Congressman MARKEY'S legislation would allow the Centers for Disease Control to develop regulations limiting the relative easy access to these dangerous biological agents to those individuals with insincere motives and illegitimate intentions, while also protecting the very sincere and legitimate scientific research involving pathogenic or etiological material.

There is obviously legitimate day-to-day research involving these dangerous viruses, such as efforts to find an antidote to the Ebola virus, ongoing at dozens, if not hundreds of academic laboratories. This research is ongoing at both Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] in my congressional district. We must take the appropriate steps to protect this legitimate research, and I believe the Markey-Kennedy-Kasich bill is a reasonable step in this direction.

NARCOTICS TRADE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my good friends and colleagues, Mr. SHAW of Florida and Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana, in announcing this new and tougher approach in the battle against the international narcotics trade. Our bill, further linking foreign trade to the deadly narcotics business from abroad, is long overdue.

Vice President GORE said not long ago that the annual cost to our society here at home from drug abuse is a staggering \$67 billion each and every year. Most of those drugs come from abroad. While the Vice President's estimate is very low in my opinion, it makes amply clear the seriousness of the threat that illicit drugs from abroad pose for our society here at home. For example, the FBI Director attributes about 90 percent of our crime to drugs.

No nation can and should tolerate such destruction coming from abroad, and not take drastic and dramatic action. If we were to add this \$67 billion annual cost from drug abuse to any yearly trade picture with the major drug producing or transit nations—who want easy access to our markets—we would see an overwhelming and staggering U.S. trade deficit each and every year with these same nations.

The American people know something must be done. Just recently, a survey of public opinion on U.S. foreign policy indicated that 85 percent of the U.S. public believes stopping the flow of illegal drugs to our Nation is the most important foreign policy issue, topping even the concern for protecting U.S. jobs. Our bill responds to that justifiable public concern of the American people.

Mr. SHAW'S bill, which I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of, will require the imposition of trade sanctions on countries failing to cooperate fully with U.S. efforts against the production and sale of narcotics as evidenced by 2 consecutive years of decertification.

Under our bill, on the recommendation of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Sec-

retary of State, one or more of these trade sanctions must and should be applied. This will provide the administration with yet another vital weapon against the flow of deadly drugs into our Nation.

I want to compliment Mr. SHAW and Mr. HAMILTON for their leadership in this effort. We are and will continue to be very serious about drugs, and the American people's deep concerns, as this effort being announced today clearly reflects.

TRIBUTE TO GREATER BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH, MIAMI, FL

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, the oldest African-American congregation in the city of Miami.

Since its founding on March 12, 1896, in the home of Mr. A.C. Lightburn, Greater Bethel A.M.E. has been at the center of Miami's spiritual and community development.

Today, in fulfillment of its founder's vision, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church still nurtures the spirit of its congregation and the entire Miami community.

Standing on the word, under the cross, in its 100 years of existence, 13 men have served as pastor: Rev. W.G. Fields, Rev. W.A. Jackson, Rev. S.J. Johnson, Rev. A.P. Postell, Rev. R.B. Sutton, Rev. H.B. Barkley, Rev. H.W. Fayson, Rev. W.F. Ball, Rev. J.B. Blacknell, Rev. S.A. Cousin, Rev. T.S. Johnson, Rev. Ira D. Hinson, and Rev. John F. White.

As it begins its second century, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church is responding to many new challenges. Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church provides programs for children and senior citizens. The church provides counseling to drug and alcohol abusers, shelters and clothes the homeless, as well as gives support to people infected with HIV.

A solid rock in Miami's African-American community, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church continues to uplift and nurture the human spirit while reinforcing the fabric of the community's social and economic well-being.

Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church recognizes that salvation and service go hand in hand. Church members realize, all too well, that you can't speak to someone about God if they are hungry; and that if you're going to save souls, you have to save their bodies too.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church on the first 100 years and I wish them much success as they carry on their mission through the next 100 years of service and dedication to God and mankind.

LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, by request, legislation to reauthorize

the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for an additional 5 years. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, established by statute in 1966, is charged with a variety of responsibilities in carrying out the National Historic Preservation Act. The authorization for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is scheduled to expire at the end of the current calendar year.

On March 20, the National Parks, Forest and Lands Subcommittee has scheduled a hearing to conduct oversight of the process for listing resources on the National Register of Historic Places and the section 106 review process for analyzing impacts to National Register properties, as well as several historic preservation measures currently before the subcommittee. It is my intent to consider this legislation at this hearing. Therefore, I encourage all Members who have an interest in this topic to make their views known to the subcommittee so they can be fully considered.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION,
Washington, DC, February 26, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed is a bill amending the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, that will continue the appropriations authorization for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Established in 1966, the Council is an independent Federal agency responsible for advising the President and the Congress on historic preservation matters and commenting to Federal agencies on the effects of their activities upon significant historic properties.

In 1992, the Council requested the President and the Congress to amend Section 212 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Section 470t) to continue the appropriations authorization for the Council at a level of \$5 million from FY 1993 through FY 1996. That amendment was subsequently enacted as Public Law 102-575 on October 30, 1992.

Because the Council's appropriations authorization expires with the current fiscal year, we are now requesting that legislation be passed to continue the necessary authorization. We recommend that the enclosed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and that it be enacted. The draft bill would coordinate the Council's reauthorization with current budgetary planning, which attains a balanced budget in FY 2002, by providing appropriations authority from FY 1997 through FY 2002.

Sincerely,

CATHRYN BUFORD SLATER,
Chairman.

A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL
AMERICANS: MARY ELLEN
PHIFER-KIRTON

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join thousands of my constituents and friends in Brooklyn and New York in saluting Mary Ellen Phifer-Kirton as a point-of-light for all Americans.

"First Lady of Brooklyn CORE" is the title we assigned Mary Phifer in the turbulent sixties, when Brooklyn's chapter of the CORE

movement was on the cutting edge of the boldest actions. More than 800 people were arrested challenging discrimination in the construction industry at Downstate Medical Center. We dumped garbage on the steps of Borough Hall to demand better collection in Bedford Stuyvesant. We organized over 100 buildings with rent strikes. Through it all Mary Phifer was our inspiration in Brooklyn CORE.

Mary Phifer moved to Brooklyn from Kannapolis, NC, in 1948. As a single parent she has raised four sons—John, Willis, Bernard, and Quentin—a daughter Teresa, plus several nieces and nephews. In 1975 she married Randolph Kirton. During the entire period of her residency in New York, Mary has always resided in Brooklyn. This adopted daughter of Brooklyn obtained an AA in public administration from Kingsborough Community College and a BS in public administration from Medgar Evers College.

A very special person, Mary Ellen Phifer-Kirton is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service with the New York City Community Development Agency. Mary has been a committed community advocate and volunteer. She serves on the boards of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now [ACORN], the Brooklyn chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, Fort Greene Senior Citizens Council, the Mutual Housing Association of New York, and the United Communities Democratic Club. She is also a member of the Greater Bibleway Temple, 100 Women for Major Owens, and the League of Women Voters, Midwood chapter.

In addition to her lifetime of activism in the world community, Mrs. Phifer-Kirton has devoted 28 years of her civil service career to community action at the New York City Community Development Agency [CDA]. During the 6 years that I served as commissioner of the CDA, Mary was a staff member. Mary has been in the field since April 1967 when she began her first assignment at CDA monitoring the neighborhood summer programs. By May 1981, she was the district officer of all of the CDA funded agencies in the borough of Brooklyn.

Individuals like Mary are all too rare. She cares deeply about the community, so much that she has devoted over two decades of struggle in the fight to improve the lives of others. At a time when voluntarism and community involvement is decreasing, it is appropriate that we join with Mary's friends and family in celebrating this point-of-light in the 11th Congressional District. Before she relocates to Kannapolis, NC, friends and followers of Mary Phifer are assembling for a special tribute to Mary Phifer on Friday, March 8, 1996. We all welcome this opportunity to show how much we appreciate Mary's life of service in New York. She will always be "First Lady" in our hearts. And for the people of the Nation Mary Ellen Phifer-Kirton is a great point-of-light.

MELISSA CORNELL NAMED TO
CARRY OLYMPIC TORCH

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the few positive issues on which much

of the world unites these days is support for the Olympic games. For most Americans, the fact that the games will be held in the United States makes this year's games especially important. And for these reasons, the people of southeastern Massachusetts, and especially the people of the town of Freetown, are proud that Melissa Cornell of Freetown has been named as one of those who will carry the Olympic torch. As the accompanying article from the New Bedford Standard Times shows, Melissa Cornell is an extremely impressive young woman, and I congratulate Lisa Devlin of the I.H. Schwartz Center for nominating her and the U.S. Olympic Committee for selecting her for this honor. Mr. Speaker, the story of this young woman is an inspiring one and I ask that the article from the New Bedford Standard Times about Melissa Cornell and her selection as an Olympic torch bearer be printed here.

[From the New Bedford Standard Times]
COMMUNITY HERO CHOSEN TO CARRY OLYMPIC
TORCH

(By Elizabeth Lawton)

In July, the Olympics will be coming to Atlanta. For lifelong resident Melissa Cornell, the festivities have already begun.

Thanks to a nomination sent in to the U.S. Olympic Committee by Lisa Devlin of the I.H. Schwartz Center in New Bedford, stating Melissa's kindness, generosity and willingness to always help others, a package arrived at her Chipaway Lane home via UPS, informing her of being selected to carry the Olympic torch on June 15 in Boston.

"I'm wicker excited, but I didn't really believe it," said Melissa.

The road that brought Melissa here has not been without pain and struggles.

Melissa, daughter of Steven and Alice Cornell, was 4 years old when a brain tumor was discovered. She endured three operations that left her partially paralyzed. She was a student at the I.H. Schwartz Center before going on to graduate in 1983 from Apponequet Regional High School in Lakeville.

She has since given freely of her time at the center, and to Easter Seals and many other charitable organizations that she feels she can help.

Melissa's philosophy for life is one of giving back to those who have helped her along the journey. Some might look at Melissa and see her as physically challenged; I had the privilege of spending a recent snowy afternoon watching her teach an 8-year-old to tie shoes, do origami and zipper, all with the use of only her left hand. It was I who felt challenged.

Melissa doesn't allow much to slow her down. "I like to get up every day and do things," she says.

On Feb. 21, Melissa, along with 67 other Massachusetts residents, was honored as a community hero in a reception at Boston City Hall, with the Boston Mayor Thomas Menino welcoming his guests, along with Marion Heard, president of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and representatives of Coca-Cola Bottlers of New England.

Melissa will receive an official Olympic running uniform that she will wear June 15 as she carries the 3½-pound torch and runs her half mile toward yet another goal: representing Freetown in this official Olympic event.

We all need heroes to help us remember the goodness in all people.

Melissa, we are proud to know you and have you as our hometown hero. We will be with you—if not in body, in spirit—on June 15 as you continue on your journey.

The Olympic Search Committee lists a community hero as someone who performs